

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 096742

42/16

ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 PM-03

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DRAFTED BY:AID/IDC:LLOWENSTEIN; IO/CMD:WWWOODBURY

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AID/AA/IDC:SWEINTRAUB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMRONSUL TORONTO 2110

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USMISSION OECD PARIS

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TAGS: UN, EGEN, (VAN LAETHEM, GABRIEL), EAID

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 4)

SUBJECT: MEETING OF AID/AA/IDC WEINTRAUB WITH UN UNDER
SECRETARY-GENERAL VAN LAETHEM

REF: STATE 93148

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PAGE 02 STATE 096742

A.I.D. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR INTERAGENCY DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATION WEINTRAUB MET WITH UN UNDER SECRETARY-
GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS VAN LAETHEM
APRIL 17, DURING THE COURSE OF VAN LAETHEM'S FIRST CON-
SULTATIONS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. FOLLOWING

ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THAT MEETING:

1. REGARDING THE UNCTAD INTEGRATED COMMODITIES SCHEME, VAN LAETHEM AGREES WITH US THAT THE ENTIRE PROPOSAL IS PROBABLY TECHNICALLY UNWORKABLE AND HE EMPHASIZES THE NEED TO EXAMINE EACH COMMODITY SEPARATELY. HE IS FAMILIAR WITH THREE COMMODITIES HIMSELF AND APPRECIATES THE COMPLEX HISTORY OF EACH ONE. HE HAS DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH COREA OF UNCTAD.

2. VAN LAETHEM ALSO AGREES WITH US THAT THE BEST HOPE FOR REDUCING THE LEVEL OF CONFRONTATION AT THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION AND OTHER UPCOMING UN MEETINGS LIES IN FOCUSING

THE MEETING ON A FEW PRACTICAL SUBJECTS. HE AGREES THAT WE SHOULD WORK WITH THE MODERATES IN ADVANCE TO TRY TO DELINEATE SUCH ISSUES.

3. IN AN ERA OF REDUCED AID RESOURCES, ONE AREA IN WHICH HE SUGGESTS SOME CONSTRUCTIVE WORK MIGHT BE DONE IS IN IMPROVING THE DISSEMINATION OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY IN THE LDCS.

4. VAN LAETHEM WILL TRY TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF GRANDIOSE MEETINGS, AND HE HAS ALREADY TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO POSTPONE THE PREPCON FOR THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 1977.

5. HAVING ASSUMED HIS JOB IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN MID-JANUARY, VAN

LAETHEM IS DISTRESSED BY THE SHALLOW, AMORPHOUS, NATURE OF THE WORK PRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT. HE IS DETERMINED TO FOCUS ITS ENERGIES IN A FEW PRODUCTIVE AREAS. HE

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PAGE 03 STATE 096742

FEELS THE STAFF HAS BEEN EMASCULATED BY CONSTANT ATTENTION TO THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES OF THE UN MEMBERSHIP. IN GENERAL, HE IS STRUCK BY THE DETERIORATION IN QUALITY OF THE PEOPLE EMPLOYED AT THE UN SECRETARIAT, IN THE MISSIONS, AND THOSE SENT TO MEETINGS. HE MAINTAINS THAT THE POOR QUALITY OF SECRETARIAT STAFF IS PARTLY A RESULT OF LOW SALARIES WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN RAISED. MR. WEINTRAUB SUGGESTED THAT COUNTRIES TEND TO SEND THEIR BETTER PEOPLE TO THE MEETINGS IN OTHER FORUMS ON SPECIFIC MATTERS, SUCH AS TO THE IMF. KISSINGER

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TOKYO
AMRONSUL TORONTO

LONDON
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